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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 043352

FOR AMBASSADOR VANCE

FOL REPEAT MEXICO 1693 SENT ACTION SECSTATE FEB 25

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 1693

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: BREAKFAST MEETING WITH MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL

REF: BERNAL/ALBERTI TELCON FEBRUARY 20, 1975

S/NM FOR AMBASSADOR VANCE

DEPT PASS DEA HDQS - DOI FOR CUSACK

SUMMARY: ON FEBRUARY 20 AMBASSADOR JOVA HAD A TWO-HOUR
BREAKFAST MEETING WITH MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL PEDRO
OJEDA PAULLADA AND DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL MANUEL
ROSALES MIRANDA. ALSO ATTENDING ON U.S. SIDE WERE
DCM BRANDIN, DEA REGIONAL DIRECTOR EYMAN AND NARCOTICS
COORDINATOR ALBERTI. TOPICS DISCUSSED INCLUDED: THE
1975 ERADICATION/INTERDICTION CAMPAIGN AND ATTENDANT
PROBLEMS; THE EXPANSION OF DEA PERSONNEL IN MEXICO;
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DEA OPERATIONS IN MEXICO; U.S. PRISONERS AND SEIZED U.S.

AIRCRAFT IN MEXICO. THE EMBASSY HAS DONE MEMCONS ON THE ABOVE, AND WILL POUCH COPIES TO THE DEPARTMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. ERADICATION/INTERDICTION CAMPAIGN

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SAID HE PLANNED FORMALLY TO INAUGURATE CAMPAIGN AT MEETING FEBRUARY 20 IN CULIACAN WITH GOVERNORS OF SINALOA, CHIHUAHUA AND DURANGO AND OTHER POLITICAL, POLICE AND MILITARY OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN CAMPAIGN. DURING THE FOLLOWING TWO DAYS AG PLANNED TO VISIT ADVANCE BASES AND OTHER IMPORTANT CENTERS IN THE TRI-STATE PRODUCING AREA. AG NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH THE CAMPAIGN HAD BEGUN LAST MONTH, THIS FORMAL KICKOFF WAS EXPECTED BY A NUMBER OF THE PEOPLE INVOLVED. THE AG SAID ANY IMPRESSIONS OF THE CAMPAIGN WERE PREMATURE, BUT THAT JUDGING FROM THE STATISTICS IT APPEARED TO BE GOING REASONABLY WELL. AS PROBLEMS HE CITED DELAYED DELIVERY (SIC) OF HELICOPTERS AND SPARE PARTS; TOLD THAT CUSTOMS CLEARANCE TOOK AN INORDINATELY LONG TIME, HE OFFERED TO SEE IF SOME SORT OF BLANKET IMPORT PERMIT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE. HE ALSO MENTIONED DELAY IN DELIVERY OF ARMS AND AMMO (WHICH PROBLEM SHOULD BE RESOLVED THIS WEEK PER THE REFERENCED TELECON). HE SAID PILOTS AND OTHER MFJP PERSONNEL HAD FINALLY BEEN PAID. THE AG AGREED THERE WERE DELAYS ON BOTH SIDES AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE WORK OF HIS ADMINISTRATORS WOULD BE MADE MORE EFFICIENT BY SOON-TO-BE-IMPLEMENTED REORGANIZATION OF THE PROCURADURIA.

2. DEA PERSONNEL EXPANSION

WHEN THIS SUBJECT WAS RAISED BY THE AMBASSADOR, THE AG REPLIED JOKINGLY THAT "THEY (THE FOREIGN SECRETARIAT) SEEM TO BE PREOCCUPIED WITH THE COMPANY (CIA)". HE SAID FONSEC WAS ONLY GOM DEPARTMENT WHICH COULD GRANT OFFICIAL APPROVAL FOR DEA INCREASE, AND SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE HAD CONSISTENTLY RECOMMENDED IN FAVOR, FROM TECHNICAL VIEWPOINT, IT WAS THE FONSEC WHICH WOULD HAVE TO MAKE THE POLITICAL DECISION. AMBASSADOR JOVA AGREED ONCE AGAIN TO RAISE THIS QUESTION WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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FONSEC, POINTING OUT WE NOW WERE SEEKING ONLY SIX NEW POSITIONS IN LIEU OF THE ORIGINAL THIRTY-ONE. AG SUGGESTED THAT WE COVER OUR NEEDS BY INTERNAL SHIFTING OF PERSONNEL. IN THIS CONNECTION HE BROUGHT UP MATTER OF DEA AGENTS OPERATING IN HIGH MOUNTAINS AND AT FORWARD BASES. THIS WAS NOT ONLY A MISALLOCATION OF U.S. RESOURCES, HE SAID, BUT HE WAS NOT AT EASE WITH WHAT HE INTERPRETED AS "WATCHDOG" ROLE FOR DEA AGENTS. HE SAID

THEIR PRESENCE WAS TOO OBVIOUS IN MOUNTAINS AND COULD CAUSE POLITICAL TROUBLE. HE STRESSED THAT THEY SHOULD NOT BE STATIONED OR EVEN VISIT FOR LONG PERIODS AT ADVANCE BASES AND THAT U.S. AGENTS SHOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN GOM ROADBLOCK ACTIVITIES, WHICH SHOULD BE ENGAGED IN SOLELY BY MEXICAN PERSONNEL.

3. DEA OPERATIONS IN MEXICO

TO AMBASSADOR JOVA'S QUESTION, THE AG STATED THAT MOST EFFECTIVE USE OF DEA PERSONNEL IN MEXICO WAS IN INVESTIGATIVE ROLE AND IN PROVIDING INTELLIGENCE TO GOM AUTHORITIES. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH U.S. AGENTS COULD OPERATE IN UNDERCOVER CAPACITY IN MEXICO AND MIGHT ON OCCASION PARTICIPATE DIRECTLY WITH MFJP IN BRINGING CASES TO CONCLUSION, ANY INSTANCES INVOLVING CARRYING OR POSSIBLE USE OF FIREARMS MUST BE METICULOUSLY PLANNED AND EXECUTED (HE CITED RECENT WOUNDING OF AGENT GARCIA IN CIUDAD JUAREZ AS AN EXMPLE OF HOW SUCH OPERATIONS CAN HAVE POTENTIALLY TRAGIC RESULTS). ALL APPREHENSIONS OF VIOLATORS SHOULD BE EFFECTED SOLELY BY GOM AUTHORITIES AND IN FACT DEA AGENTS SHOULD WITHDRAW WHEN ARRESTS OR POSSIBLE SHOOTING MAY OCCUR, HE ADDED.

4. U.S. PRISONERS

AMBASSADOR JOVA BRIEFLY DESCRIBED THIS PROBLEM AND EXPLAINED OUR TWO-FOLD OBLIGATION TO COMBAT NARCOTICS TRAFFIC WHILE AT SAME TIME PROTECT RIGHTS OF U.S. CITIZEN VIOLATORS. HE SAID PROMPT ACCESS TO U.S. PRISONERS WAS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT. AG FIRMLY AGREED THAT TERMS OF CONSULAR CONVENTION MUST BE OBSERVED AND THOUGHT SITUATION HAD IMPROVED RECENTLY. HE NONETHELESS GAVE INSTRUCTIONS
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THAT ALL MEXICAN FEDERAL ATTORNEYS BE REMINDED REPEATEDLY THAT CONSULAR OFFICIALS MUST HAVE PROMPT ACCESS TO U.S. PRISONERS. AG MADE SUGGESTION THAT GOM FEDERAL ATTORNEYS MIGHT PROVIDE SOME INFORMATIVE MATERIAL (ISSUED BY EMBASSY) TO PRISONERS TO HELP FILL THE NEED BEFORE CONSULS COULD ARRIVE AT PLACE OF DETENTION. TURNING TO VICTIMIZATION OF U.S. PRISONERS BY ATTORNEYS, PRISON OFFICIALS AND OTHER PRISONERS, AG NOTED THAT GOM WAS EMBARKED ON EXPENSIVE PRISON REFORM PROGRAM, BUT ADDED THAT SUCH NECESSARY CHANGES COULD NOT BE EFFECTED IN A SHORT TIME. NEW NARCOTICS LAW SHOULD MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR UNSCRUPULOUS ATTORNEYS TO PROMISE HELP THEY CANNOT DELIVER, HE SAID, AS NEW MINIMUM SENTENCE (WHICH IS HIGH ENOUGH TO RULE OUT POSSIBILITY OF BAIL) MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR TRAFFICKERS TO AVOID SERVING PRISON SENTENCE.

5. U.S.-OWNER AIRCRAFT

THE AMBASSADOR MENTIONED THAT THERE WERE NOW SOME 111 U.S.-OWNER AIRCRAFT IMPOUNDED IN MEXICO. THE AG AGREED THAT THIS WAS A SERIOUS PROBLEM, COMPOUNDED BY MANY AIRCRAFT BEING IN THE (NEARLY AUTONOMOUS) HANDS OF THE MEXICAN ARMY. MOREOVER, SOME OF THESE AIRCRAFT HAD BEEN STOLEN IN THE U.S., WHILE OTHERS WERE RENTAL AIRCRAFT. HE ASKED THE DEPUTY AG TO HAVE BEST LAWYERS ON HIS STAFF MEET WITH APPROPRIATE CONSULAR OFFICIALS TO SEE IF THESE PROBLEMS COULD NOT BE RESOLVED.

6. COMMENT: WHILE THE CONVERSATION WAS MOST CORDIAL THROUGHOUT, IT WAS APPARENT THAT THE AG HAD A NUMBER OF THINGS ON HIS MIND, PARTICULARLY THE ROLE OF THE DEA, WHICH HE WANTED TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE AMBASSADOR. HE DID THIS WITH CONSIDERABLE FORCE AND FRANKNESS, LEAVENED WITH COURTESY AND GOOD HUMOR. END COMMENT. JOVA

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